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April 19, 2006

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Resources Secretary Chrisman Joins Earth Day Volunteers

Fourth Generation Californian Will Help Spruce-up Sacramento Bike Trail

SACRAMENTO - California's Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman will join 300 volunteers for an Earth Day Bike Trail Clean-Up at Sacramento's Robla Park on Sat., April 22. The work to be done will include planting 25 trees, removing unauthorized camp sites and man-made debris, pulling out invasive star thistle weeds, and cleaning off graffiti.

"If we want our parks and beautiful places to remain healthy for all generations to come, then we all need to roll up our sleeves and donate a little time toward that effort," Chrisman said. "I know that thousands of others believe as I do that we need to give something back to protect and preserve these special places on Earth Day and every other day of the year."

Robla Parks is located at 625 Bell Avenue, between Rio Linda Boulevard and Norwood Avenue in North Sacramento. Volunteers will be at the park from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Julie Mier, Volunteer Program Coordinator for the City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation Department, said people should come prepared to work. She suggested that volunteers wear boots, tennis shoes or other closed toed shoes, sunscreen, a hat, long pants and shirts with long sleeves. Mier also recommends each person bring their own work gloves and a water bottle.

This project is one of 41 environmental improvement sites funded through the California State Parks Foundation's Earth Day 2006 program. The effort is part of The City of Sacramento's "14 Miles of Service" that originated in 1996 when 2500 community volunteers planted more than 5000 trees and shrubs, reclaiming the abandoned railway as a community bike trail.

"This may sound like work, but when you're with a group of people who care deeply for our environment and the Sacramento bike trail then it's really a labor of love," said Chrisman. "And it's a lot of fun too."

Secretary Chrisman, a Visalia rancher and fourth generation Californian, oversees California's Resources Agency, which manages and protects the state's abundant natural resources. There are 24 departments, boards, commissions and conservancies within Resources Agency, including the State Parks Department and the Department of Conservation.

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